**Proposal for New Industrial Price Index**

5155. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to select a new industrial price index;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken i that regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) A scheme for conducting Working Class Family Income and Expenditure Survey with a view to update Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers has been included in the Fighth Five Year Plan.

**Violation of labour standards**

5156. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing in the Indian Express, dated the 11th April, 1995, under the caption "India violating labour standards; OECD"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As has been pointed out in the very same News item, the contents and conclusions of the OECD Report are biased and motivated. Though India has not ratified ILO Conventions regarding Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining, under Article 19 of the Constitution, right to form associations and unions is guaranteed. And, the Trade Unions Act is the enactment under which Trade unions are registered. Under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 Collective Bargaining is facilitated. The Government of India has ratified 36 ILO Conventions so far as compared to 11 in the case of the United States and 27 in the case of Canada. There has been an unfair tendency, particularly in recent years, to single cut some Asian countries, including India, and criticise them in the area of labour standards. Criticism of this nature is particularly motivated and is made without a fair and correct appreciation of Indian conditions. India is unequivocally committed to strengthening fundamental labour standards but social and economic progress will also play a part in bringing about increasing upgradation of labour standards.

**Visit of German Minister for Labour and Social Welfare**

5157. SHRI KRISHAN LAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German Minister for labour and social welfare on a visit to the capital recently stated that Germany will not buy Indian carpets manuactured by child labour of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) its likely effect on carpet industry of the country;

(d) whether the number of child labour engaged in the carpet industry of the country has come down; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The German Minister for Labour and Social Welfare after his visit to India recently is reported to have asked

German citizens to boycott carpets produced by child labour. Further, he is reported to have said "don't buy goods, the productions of which profits exploitative child hunters", and that Rugmark carpets were free of this problem.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have no comments to offer at present.

(d) and (e) A National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) study sponsored by Development Commissioner, Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles titled "Reappraisal of Child labour in carpet industry" brought out in October, 1994 indicates that the employment of children in the carpet industry has come down marginally from the earlier level of 8 per cent to 7.5 per cent of the total workforce in the carpet industry estimated at 1.5 per cent million (both adults and children).

**Correspondence by MPs to the Ministry**

5158. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alies* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Non-payment of wages and salaries to employees of PSUs**

5159. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of wages and salaries in a number of public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the problems of non-payment of wages and salaries to employees in certain sick public sector undertakings.

Ministry of Labour has already taken up the matter with the concerned administrative Ministries as well as the Ministry of Finance so that funds are made available in time for payment of salaries and wages to workers of sick PSUs.

**उत्तर प्रदेश के पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए योजनाएं**

5160. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :**

**चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :**

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए कोई विशिष्ट योजनाएं नहीं हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप कतिपय क्षेत्रों का विकास हो रहा है तथा अन्य क्षेत्र उपेक्षित हैं; और